of 2100 per day in urban areas at 1973-74 prices. The poverty line has been updated for the subsequent years using the Consumer Price Index for Agricultural Labourers (CPIAL) for rural areas and Consumer Price Index for Urban Poverty line. The latest poverty estimates using the above methodology have been released for the year 2004-05. The State Governments have not disagreed with the methodology of estimation of poverty as such, however, some State Governments have been requesting to allow them to have more number of households in the BPL list.

(c) to (e) The methodology for estimation of poverty is reviewed from time to time. Planning Commission has constituted an Expert Group under the Chairmanship of Prof. Suresh D. Tendulkar to look at the methodology related issues including alternative conceptualization of poverty and to recommend any changes in the existing procedures of official estimates of poverty.

Saxena Committee Report

†827. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:
SHRI SHIVANAND TIWARI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Saxena Committee appointed by the Ministers of Rural Development has suggested that a comprehensive reform is necessary in the procedure adopted by the Planning Commission for assessing the number of the poor in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that there is always a difference found between the assessment made by the Planning Commission and the assessment of the survey conducted by the Ministry of Rural Development; and

(d) if so, the details of this difference?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): (a) and (b) Ministry of Rural Development appointed an Expert Group (headed by Dr. N.C. Saxena) to advise the Ministry on the methodology for conducting the BPL Census for the Eleventh Five Year Plan in order to identify the BPL households living in the rural areas who could be assisted under its various poverty alleviation programmes. The matter of fixing percentage and number of people below poverty line is beyond the terms of reference of this Expert Group, which is handled by a separate Expert Group (headed by Prof. Suresh D. Tendulkar) constituted by Planning Commission. The Expert Group (headed by Dr. N.C. Saxena) have, however, expressed their views in Para 2.3 of the Report that the percentage of people entitled to BPL status should be drastically revised upwards to at least 50%.

(c) and (d) Estimation of poverty is done by the Planning Commission at the national and state level from the large sample survey on household consumer expenditure conducted by the

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

National Sample Survey Organization (NSSO) at an interval of approximately five years. The number of person living below the poverty line at the national level and state level is thus determined by the Planning Commission. The identification of the poor is, however, done by the Ministry of Rural Development through door-to-door survey with hundred per cent coverage. While the estimation of poverty helps in assessing the magnitude of poverty, identification of the specific households living Below Poverty Line is necessary for targeting them under various poverty alleviation programmes. The guidelines issued by the Ministry of Rural Development for conducting the BPL Census 2002 stipulated that the States/UTs may identify the number of BPL households in the rural areas which should be equal to the poverty estimates of 1999-2000 or the adjusted share worked out by the Planning Commission, whichever is higher. In addition to above, another 10% flexibility was given to the States and UTs to account for the transient poor.

Prime Minister Reconstruction Package

†828. SHRI BALAVANT *ALIAS* BAL APTE:
SHRI PRABHAT JHA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Jammu Kashmir has been a failure in utilizing Prime Minister Reconstruction Package worth Rs. 24000 crores;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) reaction of Government to this indifference of the Jammu and Kashmir Government; and

(d) whether Government is contemplating a new scheme for implementation of such schemes in Jammu and Kashmir?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

Financial assistance for infrastructure projects

829. SHRI Y.P. TRIVEDI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Maharashtra has requested for financial assistance for infrastructure projects;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the assistance released, so far, and;

(c) if not, by when such assistance would be released?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): (a) There is no request from Government of Maharashtra for financial assistance for infrastructure projects in the State

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.